

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claims 1-10 and add new claims 1-21 as follows:

1. (New) A turbocharger (1) comprising:
 - a turbine housing (2), with
 - at least one supply channel means (9) in said housing (2) for supplying said exhaust gas;
 - wherein at least one turbine rotor (4) rotatably supported within said housing (2), said supply channel means (9) being arranged to supply said exhaust gas to said turbine rotor (4) in order to rotate it;
 - spacer means (16) forming a passage of variable cross-section between said supply channel means (9) and said turbine rotor (4) in order to control the amount of exhaust gas admitted to said turbine rotor (4), said means including
 - a plurality of vanes (7) of predetermined width distributed in an annular vane space (13) of approximately said width around said turbine rotor (4) having two axial ends to form a passage between them for admitting exhaust gas to said turbine rotor (4), each vane (7) being pivoted about an axis to enable control of the amount of exhaust gas,
 - a vane support ring member (6) supporting said axes of said vanes (7), said vane support ring member (6) defining one axial end of said annular vane space (13) by a first circumferential surface,
 - a housing ring (15) facing and being spaced from said support ring member (6) by said width to define the other

axial end of said annular vane space (13) by a second circumferential surface, and

wherein at least two spacer means (16) integrally formed on at least one of said circumferential surfaces of ring members said housing ring (15) or said support ring member (6), and being distributed over its respective circumferential surface to ensure said width of said vane space.

2. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein said spacer means (16) are integrally formed on said vane support ring member (6).

3. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said ring members (6 or 15) is of cast metal, said spacer means (16) being integrally cast.

4. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein said spacer means (16) are integrally formed in an outer circumferential border zone of said circumferential surface of at least one of said ring members (6 or 15).

5. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said ring members (6 or 15) includes a radial outer circumferential border area of said circumferential surface, and a radial inner circumferential area of said circumferential surface defining a radial plane, said radial outer circumferential border area shrinking back from said radial plane.

6. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 5, wherein said spacer means (16) are arranged in said radial outer circumferential border area of said circumferential surface.

7. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 5, wherein said radial outer circumferential border area is provided on said vane support ring member (6).

8. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein said spacer means (16) are elongated.

9. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein said spacer means (16) are vane-shaped.

10. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein said spacer means (16) are oriented substantially in a tangential direction with respect to the ring member.

11. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 1, wherein at least part of said spacer means (16) has a bore for passing a connection bolt through.

12. (New) The turbocharger (1) according to claim 11, wherein said bolt is connected to the opposite ring member.

13. (New) A vane ring for a turbocharger comprising:
an annular surface on both sides of a vane support ring member (6);

a plurality of bores (20) distributed around the circumference of a passage in said annular surface for allowing passage of a plurality of vane (7) shafts (8);

wherein spacer means (16) integrally formed on said annular surface are distributed over the circumference of said annular surface.

14. (New) The vane ring according to claim 13, wherein said spacer means (16) are elongated.

15. (New) The vane ring according to claim 14, wherein said spacer means (16) are vane-shaped.

16. (New) The vane ring according to claim 14, wherein said spacer means (16) are approximately oriented in tangential direction of said ring.

17. (New) The vane ring according to claim 13, wherein said vane ring is of cast metal, and wherein the spacer means (16) is cast with said vane ring.

18. (New) The vane ring according to claim 17, wherein said vane ring and said spacer means (16) are formed as a precision cast part.

19. (New) The vane ring according to claim 13, further comprising a radial outer circumferential border area of said circumferential surface, and a radial inner circumferential area of said circumferential surface defining a radial plane, said radial outer circumferential border area shrinking back from said radial plane.

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20. (New) The vane ring according to claim 19, wherein said spacer means (16) are integrally formed in said radial outer circumferential border area.

21. (New) The vane ring according to claim 13, wherein at least part of said spacer means (16) has a bore (18) for passage of a connection bolt.